79. Educational concessions to the Kammalas.

MR. K. NILAKANTAN ASARI (*Member, Nominated*) observed that the prosperity of a State depended to a large extent on the development of industries and handicrafts. In Travancore, the Kammalas were the chief handicraftsmen. But since they were backward in point of education, their community and their handicrafts were on the wane. The chief reason for their backwardness was poverty. They should therefore be adequately encouraged by the Government.

Primary education was most useful to artisans. It was therefore necessary to open night-schools in all villages for the benefit of the Kammala community. In Middle and High Schools, the Government had granted fee concessions to pupils belonging to several communities. If the concessions be extended to Kammalas as well, they could also hope to become a civilised community in the near future. As regards collegiate education, only 4 Kammalas had finished their course and 6 were undergoing their collegiate course. The fewness in the number of pupils among the Kammalas undergoing collegiate courses of study was due to their extreme poverty. The Kammalas being a labouring class earning what little the contractors gave, they could not save much for sending their children to colleges. Education was the sole cause for the rise of several communities. In view to encourage Kammala youths to study in the college classes, they should be given half-fee concessions. That would tend to increase the number of educated young men among them and thereby lead to the progress of the community.

In technical education, there were several branches. The Kammalas were familiar with most of them but none of them had been properly developed. In view to encourage the industries followed by them, deserving youths should be encouraged by the grant of foreign scholarships for prosecuting technical and industrial studies abroad. The point had been pressed upon the Government on former occasions, but nothing had yet been done.

The artisans looked up to the Public Works Department for their occupation, but no material benefit was derived from that department. The works were generally given on contracts and the contractors appropriated the lion's share of the amount sanctioned for the works and amassed large fortunes. The really hard-working artisans were paid little. It would be better if the works were carried out under departmental control and Kammala workmen engaged in large numbers and paid liberally.

A large amount was being spent annually for importing iron and steel articles. Many of such articles could be made locally at the cost at which they were got down from outside. To encourage the manufacture of steel and iron articles, factories should be opened in some places.

Some industrial institutes and workshops had been established. They should be encouraged by the award of grants-in-aid. The member regretted the Government's refusal to award a grant to the Sri Mulam Fine Arts Institute at Trivandrum, though the manager was a duly qualified gentleman. Increasing the number of industrial institutes was one way of developing industries in the State.

The Carpentry School, Quilon, was not productive of any practical results and was not satisfactorily managed. The students were trained to work on western lines and forgetting the ancient Hindu ideals. In view to suggest measures for increasing the usefulness of the institute and to draw up revised courses of study, a committee, with a non-official majority and containing expert carpenters, should be appointed. A high-paid superintendent was a superfluity, and a headmaster would be quite sufficient. The courses of study should be determined first. Provision should also be made for teaching English in the school. As regards carpentry, the ancient *Silpisastram* had been lost sight of by the Public Works Department, though the people in general respected it in constructing houses and temples, making images, flagstaffs for temples, etc. In view of its importance, that science should also be taught in the Carpentry School.

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Alarmed at the growing unemployment among the educated youths in the State, Kammalas were loath to send their children to schools. The fear of unemployment was detrimental to the progress of education among the Kammalas. The remedy lay in encouraging qualified Kammalas by appointments under Government. Instructions should be issued to the officers concerned in the matter. The member then read out a list of persons belonging to his community who had passed the E. S. L. C., and the V. S. L. C. examinations, the *Vidvan* Test and the Technical examinations in drawing.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nilakantan Asari, the first point of your representation is the establishment of night-schools for small boys of your community. As you know, the arrangement exists for night-schools for adults. But, in the case of small boys, I quite agree with the Director that it will be a cruel thing to call upon children to study at night, as they cannot have too much of sleep. Therefore I am not in favour of night-schools for boys who are working during the day.

Though I do not agree with you there, I find myself in complete agreement with you on your suggestion about associating a committee of *Asaries* with the authorities of the Quilon Carpentry School. I have already, after your conversation with me the other day, spoken to the Director of Industries, and he will submit proposals immediately for constituting a committee such as you advise. I think it will be helpful in determining the course of studies and the syllabus of teaching to be followed and the direction in which their teaching should go.

In particular I am interested in what you said about the pupils in the Carpentry School being instructed only in the ways of manufacturing western types of furniture such as chairs and tables. The boys who leave the Carpentry School should also know how to work and make things required for the people of the country quite apart from western models and in that direction it would be well, as you suggest, if they could be instructed in building construction as it is understood and practised in this country, more particularly in temple architecture. The Director is taking steps to discover suitable men who will form the instructors in the subject and also will endeavour to collect the literature that may be found available on the subject.

The other points referred to will be dealt with in due course.

80. Education of the Pulayas.

MR. AIYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) in thanking the Government for the several concessions granted to the Pulayas in the matter of education, represented that there was a great disability which the Pulya pupils were suffering from *viz.*, their inability to have noonday meals. The necessity for providing noonday meals had been urged upon the Government at previous sessions of the Assembly but the grievance remained unredressed. There was need therefore for repeating the prayer. The member wanted that provision should be made only at the rate of one chack for rice and one cash for salt for each Pulaya pupil.

Secondly, there were about 15 Pulayas, both males and females, who passed the E. S. L. C. Examination but who were without employment for the p of three years. They were not also fit to pursue their usual occupations. If thuld youths completed the 25th year of age, they would not be eligible for entertainm in public service. They should, therefore, be entertained at an early date in ou Education Department which had always been treating the community with jus es and kindness.

Lastly, in every department, except the Devaswom Department, a p should be recruited from among the Pulayas. Further, one peon might e appoi our in each Taluk Office. If there was shortage of vacancies in any of the Taluk Off the the deficiency might be made up by appointing Pulaya peons in Munsiffs' Co

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Aiyan Kali, some time ago you asked me hould this mid-day meal for Pulaya school-children. I then asked the Director whet rships could arrange for a local committee who will undertake the distribution of the cation day meal if the Government place a lump sum at his disposal every ye ar f f your

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